

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04407 211535 Z

51

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /122 W

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P R 211500 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2549

DIA DOD WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

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LIMA PASS TO ASST SEC KUBISCH

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR (PERON)

SUBJECT: PERON' S RETURN

REF BA 4406

1. AS CROWD DISPERSED LAST NIGHT, THOUSANDS MARCHED BACK INTO CITY CHANTING " WE WANT PERON", AND " WE MUST SEE PERON". WITH GROWING CROWD IN FRONT OF CASA ROSADA AND PERON' S OWN HOUSE IN VICENTE LOPEZ, RUMOR SPREAD THAT LEADER WAS PRISONER. IT WAS APPARENTLY IN VIEW OF THIS ATMOSPHERE OF INCREASING UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION THAT PERON DECIDED TO APPEAR BRIEFLY ON TELEVISION LAST NIGHT IN ORDER CALM CROWDS AND ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL DISPERSEMENT.

2. IN TELEVISED ADDRESS AT 2200, PERON APOLOGIZED TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD GONE TO EZEIZA TO GREETHIM. PLANE HAD ARRIVED LATE AND HAD
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04407 211535 Z

BEEN DIVERTED TO MORON BECAUSE OF REPORTS THAT PEOPLE HAD INVADED THE RUNWAYS AT EZEIZA. BECAUSE OF DISORDERS AND INADVISABILITY OF ADDRESSING CROWD AFTER DARK, HIS PERSONAL GREETING TO THOSE ASSEMBLED FOR HIS RETURN HAD BEEN CANCELLED. HE ASSURED ALL THAT HE WAS WELL AND LAUGHED OFF RUMORS THAT HE WAS PRISONER. ON CONTRARY, HE WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT CAMPORA FOR LATTER' S HOSPITALITY IN OFFERING HIM ROOMS IN RESIDENCE IN OLIVOS (WHERE THE TWO ARRIVED BY HELICOPTER). PERON PROMISED TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AT TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH SCHEDULED FOR 2100 ON JUNE 21. HE SAID HE WOULD SOON MAKE TOUR OF COUNTRY SO THAT HE COULD GREET THEM ALL IN THEIR OWN PROVINCES. PRESIDENT CAMPORA APPEARED ON CAMERA WITH HIM, BUT DID NOT SPEAK.

3. PERON LOOKED EXTREMELY TIRED AND SOMEWHAT DISTRAUGHT. MESSAGE APPARENTLY HAD DESIRED EFFECT, HOWEVER, SINCE CROWDS THEREAFTER BEGAN TO DISPERSE AND THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS.

4. MORNING- AFTER PRESS REPORTS INDICATESHOOT OUTS AT OFFICIAL WELCOMING SITE EVEN MORE SERIOUS THAN EARLIER REPORTED. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE 20 DEAD AND OVER 250 WOUNDED. ERP-22 ADHERENTS ARE SAID TO HAVE JOINED IN WITH FAR AND MONTENERO ELEMENTS IN FIRE-FIGHTS WITH ORTHODOX PERONIST LABOR AND YOUTH SECTORS WHO WERE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY IN THE AREA. SEVERAL SEPARATE PERIODS OF SHOOTING APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE, BEGINNING IN LATE MORNING JUNE 20 - THOUGH MOST SERIOUS BY FAR WAS THAT IN FRONT OF SPEAKERS PLATFORM JUST PRIOR TO PLANE' S ARRIVAL. PRESS SPEAKS OF SHOTS FIRED BY SHARP-SHOOTERS WITH TELESCOPIC SIGTS FROM WOODS IN VICINITY OF THE SITE. POLICE REPORTEDLY DID NOT INTERFERE.

5. IN HIS TV APPEARANCE, PERON GAVE NO CLUE AS TO HIS FUTURE LINE WITH THE TERRORISTS. HE MERELY MENTIONED THE DISORDERS NEAR EZEIZA WITHOUT COMMENT.
LODGE

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